

**IN THE CLAIMS:**

- 1        1. (Previously presented) A computerized data file system, comprising:
  - 2              a first process that maintains a data file stored in a computer-readable memory; and
  - 3              a second process that generates a first message requesting that said second process be granted by said first process a plurality of tokens required for said second process to modify at least one characteristic of said file stored in said computer-readable memory;
  - 4              said first process generating a second message, in response to said first message, that grants said tokens to said second process if said tokens are available for grant to said second
  - 5              process.
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- 1        2. (Original) A system according to claim 1, wherein:
  - 2              said first process is resident at a server computer node, and said second process is
  - 3              resident at a client computer node.
- 1        3. (Original) A system according to claim 1, wherein:
  - 2              if any of said tokens are unavailable for grant to said second process as a result of current grant of said tokens to at least one other process, said first process generates a third message revoking the current grant of said tokens to said at least one other process.
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- 1        4. (Original) A system according to claim 3, wherein:
  - 2              said at least one other process, in response to said third message, generates a fourth message making said tokens available for grant by said first process.
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- 1        5. (Original) A system according to claim 3, wherein:
  - 2              said first process resides in a first computer node;
  - 3              said second process resides in a second computer node;
  - 4              said at least one other process resides in at least one other computer node; and

5           said first computer, second computer, and at least one other computer nodes are net-  
6    worked together and are remote from each other.

1       6. (Previously presented) A computer node, comprising:

2           a first process residing in said node that generates a first message that grants a set of  
3    tokens, if the set of tokens is available for grant, to a second process that requested grant of  
4    the set of tokens, the set of tokens being required for the second process to be able to modify  
5    at least one characteristic of a file stored in a computer-readable memory within the computer  
6    node.

1       7. (Previously presented) A node according to claim 6, wherein:

2           the second process resides in a remote computer node.

1       8. (Previously presented) A node according to claim 7, wherein:

2           one of the first and second processes resides in a server computer node and the other  
3    of the processes resides in a client computer node.

1       9. (Original) A node according to claim 6, wherein:

2           if at least one token in the set of tokens is unavailable for grant because the at least  
3    one token is currently granted to a third process, the first process also generates a second  
4    message that revokes current grant of the at least one token to the third process prior to gen-  
5    erating the first message.

1       10. (Original) A node according to claim 6, wherein:

2           the first message is generated by the first process in response to a request for the grant  
3    of the set of tokens generated by the second process, the request specifying all tokens re-  
4    quired for the second process to be able to modify the at least one characteristic of the file.

1       11. (Previously presented) A computer node, comprising:

2           a first process residing in said node that generates a request to a second process for  
3    grant of a set of tokens required to enable the first process to modify at least one characteris-  
4    tic of a file residing in a remote computer-readable memory.

1       12. (Original) A node according to claim 11, wherein:  
2           the second process resides in a second computer node, and the memory is comprised  
3    in said second node.

1       13. (Original) A node according to claim 11, wherein:  
2           the set of tokens comprises all tokens required for the first process to be able to mod-  
3    ify the at least one characteristic of the file.

1       14. (Previously presented) A network computer system, comprising:  
2           a first computer node having a data file stored in a computer-readable memory; and  
3           a second computer node that issues to the first computer node a first message request-  
4    ing grant of a set of tokens required to carry out a modification of at least one characteristic  
5    of said file stored in the first computer node;  
6           the first computer node issuing a second message to the second computer node after  
7    receipt of the first message, the second message granting the set of tokens to the first process  
8    if the set of tokens is available for grant to the second process.

1       15. (Previously presented) A system according to claim 14, wherein:  
2           the first computer node is a server node, and the second computer node is a non-  
3    server node.

1       16. (Previously presented) A system according to claim 14, wherein:  
2           the set of tokens comprises all tokens required to carry out the modification of the at  
3    least one characteristic of the file.

1        17. (Previously presented) A system according to claim 14, wherein:  
2                if at least one token in the set of tokens is unavailable for the grant because the at  
3        least one token is currently granted, the first computer node waits to issue the first message  
4        until after the first computer node receives a third message from a third computer node indi-  
5        cating relinquishment of current grant of the at least one token.

1        18. (Previously presented) A system according to claim 17, wherein:  
2                the at least one token comprises a plurality of tokens.

1        19. (Previously presented) Computer-readable memory containing computer-executable pro-  
2        gram instructions, the instructions comprising:

3                first instructions which when executed permit a data file to be maintained in a com-  
4        puter storage memory;  
5                second instructions which when executed generate a first message requesting grant of  
6        a plurality of tokens required to modify at least one characteristic of said file located in said  
7        computer storage memory; and  
8                third instructions which when executed generate a second message, in response to  
9        said first message, that grants said tokens if said tokens are available for grant to said second  
10      process.

1        20. (Previously presented) Computer-readable memory containing computer-executable pro-  
2        gram instructions, the instructions comprising:

3                first instructions which when executed generate a first message that grants a set of  
4        tokens, if the set of tokens is available for grant, to a requester of the set of tokens, the set of  
5        tokens being required to permit the requester to be able to modify at least one characteristic  
6        of a file stored in computer storage memory.

1        21. (Previously presented) Computer-readable memory containing computer-executable pro-  
2        gram instructions, the instructions comprising:

3           first instructions that when executed generate a request for grant of a set of tokens  
4        required to enable modification by an issuer of the request of at least one characteristic of a  
5        file residing in storage memory.

1        22. (Previously presented) Computer-readable memory according to Claim 19, further com-  
2        prising:

3           further instructions which when executed causes, if any of said tokens are unavailable  
4        for grant as a result of current grant of said tokens, generation of a third message revoking  
5        the current grant of said tokens.

1        23. (Previously presented) A computer-readable memory according to claim 22, wherein:  
2           said further instructions, in response to said third message, generate a fourth message  
3        making said tokens available for grant.

1        24. (Previously presented) Computer-readable memory according to claim 20, further com-  
2        prising:

3           further instructions which when executed cause, if at least one token in the set of to-  
4        kens is unavailable for grant because the at least one token is currently granted, generation of  
5        a second message that revokes previous grant of the at least one token prior to generating the  
6        first message.

1        25. (Previously presented) Computer-readable memory according to claim 20, wherein:  
2           the first message is generated in response to a request for the grant of the set of tokens  
3        generated, the request specifying all tokens required to be able to modify the at least one  
4        characteristic of the file.

1        26. (Previously presented) Computer-readable memory according to claim 21, wherein:  
2           the set of tokens comprises all tokens required to be able to modify the at least one  
3        characteristic of the file.

1        27. (Previously presented) A computerized data file system, comprising:  
2              means for maintaining a data file stored in a computer-readable memory; and  
3              means for generating a first message requesting grant of a plurality of tokens required  
4        to modify at least one characteristic of said file stored in said computer-readable memory;  
5              means for generating a second message, in response to said first message, that grants  
6        said tokens if said tokens are available for grant.

1        28. (Previously presented) A system according to claim 27, further comprising:  
2              means for generating, if any of said tokens are unavailable for grant as a result of cur-  
3        rent grant of said tokens, a third message revoking the current grant of said tokens.

1        29. (Previously presented) A system according to claim 28, further comprising:  
2              means for generating, in response to said third message, a fourth message making  
3        said tokens available for grant.

1        30. (Previously presented) A computerized method for coherently maintaining and modifying  
2              a data file, comprising:  
3              maintaining the data file in a computer-readable memory;  
4              generating a first message requesting grant of a plurality of tokens required to modify  
5        at least one characteristic of said file in said computer-readable memory; and  
6              generating a second message, in response to said first message, that grants said tokens  
7        if said tokens are available for grant.

1        31. (Previously presented) A method according to claim 30, further comprising:  
2              if any of said tokens are unavailable for grant as a result of current grant of said to-  
3        kens to at least one other process, generating a third message revoking the grant of said to-  
4        kens.

1        32. (Previously presented) A method according to claim 31, wherein:

2           in response to said third message, a fourth message making said tokens available for  
3   grant is generated.

1   33. (Previously presented) A computerized method for use in maintaining coherency of a  
2       data file stored in a computer-readable memory, comprising:  
3       generating a first message that grants a set of tokens, if the set of tokens is available  
4   for grant, to a requester of the grant of the set of tokens, the set of tokens being required for  
5   requester to be able to modify at least one characteristic of the file stored in the computer-  
6   readable memory.

1   34. (Previously presented) A method according to claim 33, wherein:  
2       if at least one token in the set of tokens is unavailable for grant because the at least  
3   one token has been currently granted, the method also comprises a second message that re-  
4   vokes current grant of the at least one token prior to generating the first message.

1   35. (Previously presented) A method according to claim 33, wherein:  
2       the first message is generated in response to a request for the grant of the set of tokens  
3   generated by the requester, the request specifying all tokens required for the requester to be  
4   able to modify the at least one characteristic of the file.

1   36. (Previously presented) A computerized method for use in maintaining coherency of a  
2       data file stored in a computer-readable memory, comprising:  
3       generating a request for grant of a set of tokens required to enable modification of at  
4   least one characteristic of the file stored in the computer-readable memory.

1   37. (Previously presented) A method according to claim 36, wherein:  
2       the set of tokens comprises all tokens required to be able to modify the at least one  
3   characteristic of the file.

1       38. (Previously presented) The system according to claim 1, wherein:  
2                 said second process, in response to receiving said second message, modifies said at  
3                 least one characteristic of said file stored in said computer-readable memory.

1       39. (Previously presented) The system according to claim 27, further comprising:  
2                 means for modifying said at least one characteristic of said file stored in said com-  
3                 puter-readable memory.

1       40 (Previously presented) The method according to claim 30, further comprising:  
2                 modifying said at least one characteristic of said file in said computer-readable mem-  
3                 ory.